

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled).

2. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an elastomeric material to provide elastic properties to the resulting
5 composite.

3. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening system of claim 28 wherein the nonwoven web has a machine direction and a cross-machine direction, the direction of extension of the nonwoven web being the machine direction of said nonwoven web.

4. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the constituent fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the cross machine direction.

5. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 1 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by thermally treating the material.

6. (canceled).

7. (canceled).

8. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim 6 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become oriented

in the direction of the force with concomitant necking or
narrowing of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular to
5 the applied force.

9. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening system
set forth in claim 28 wherein the nonwoven web comprises
substantially continuous fibers.

10. (canceled).

11. (withdrawn) The mechanical fastening system of claim
6 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in
the cross machine direction.

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim
12 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by
laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an elastomeric
material to provide elastic properties to the resulting
5 composite.

15. (canceled).

16. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim
15 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by
laminating the oriented nonwoven loop material to an elastomeric
material to provide elastic properties to the resulting
5 composite.

17. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim
15 wherein the first fastening component has been produced by

orienting the nonwoven web in the machine direction and necking the nonwoven web in the cross machine direction.

18. (canceled).

19. (canceled).

20. (withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein constituent fibers of the nonwoven web become oriented in the direction of the force with concomitant necking or narrowing of the nonwoven web in the direction perpendicular to the applied force.

21. (withdrawn) The disposable absorbent article of claim 15 wherein the first fastening component has been stabilized by thermally treating the material.

22-27. (canceled).

28. (currently amended) A mechanical fastening system for an article, said fastening system comprising:

a first fastening component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material secured to a substrate, the oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web of fibers in which a greater number of fibers are oriented in a selected direction by the application of a force in the selected direction to extend the web, ~~said web being extensible from a relaxed configuration to an extended configuration wherein in the extended configuration a greater number of fibers of the nonwoven web are oriented in the direction in which the web is extended than in the relaxed configuration of the web, the web being in its extended configuration on the substrate;~~ and

a second fastening component comprising a hook material, the oriented nonwoven loop material of the first fastening

component being adapted for releasable connection with the hook material of the second fastening component.

29. (canceled).

30. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 28 in combination with the article, said substrate being formed integrally with the article.

31. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 28 wherein the substrate is substantially inelastic.

32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) An absorbent article for personal wear, the absorbent article comprising:

a liquid permeable inner layer for contact with a wearer's skin, an outer layer in superposed relationship with the inner layer, and an absorbent layer disposed between the inner layer and the outer layer, the article having a first end region and a second end region; and

a mechanical fastening system comprising at least one first fastening component disposed generally at the first end region of the article and at least one second fastening component disposed generally at the second end region of said article and adapted for releasable connection with the at least one first fastening component to secure the article on the wearer of said article, the at least one first fastening component comprising an oriented nonwoven loop material secured to a substrate, the oriented nonwoven loop material comprising a nonwoven web of fibers in which a greater number of fibers are oriented in a selected direction by the application of a force in the selected

~~direction to extend the web, said web being extensible from a~~
20 ~~relaxed configuration to an extended configuration wherein in~~
~~the extended configuration a greater number of fibers of the~~
~~nonwoven web are oriented in the direction in which the web is~~
~~extended than in the relaxed configuration of the web, said web~~
~~being in its extended configuration on the substrate, the at~~
25 least one second fastening component comprising a hook material,
the oriented nonwoven loop material of the at least one first
fastening component being adapted for releasable connection with
the hook material of the at least one second fastening
component.

34. (previously presented) The absorbent article set forth in claim 33 wherein the nonwoven web is generally free from substantial necking and gathering in a direction perpendicular to the direction in which the web is extended.

35. (currently amended) The absorbent article set forth in claim 33 ~~in combination with the article~~ wherein the substrate is formed integrally with the article.

36. (previously presented) The absorbent article set forth in claim 33 wherein the substrate is substantially inelastic.

37. (previously presented) The absorbent article set forth in claim 33 wherein the nonwoven web of the at least one first fastening component has a machine direction and a cross-machine direction, the direction in which the web is extended
5 being the machine direction.

38-39 (canceled).

40. (currently amended) A mechanical fastening system for an article, said fastening system comprising:

a first fastening component comprising a ~~drawn-oriented~~ loop material formed by a nonwoven web of fibers, the fibers in the nonwoven web being oriented by drawing of the nonwoven web of fibers in a direction so that more of the fibers are oriented in the direction of drawing than prior to drawing of the nonwoven web of fibers; and

a second fastening component comprising a hook material, the oriented nonwoven loop material of the first fastening component being adapted for releasable connection with the hook material of the second fastening component.

41. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 40 in combination with the article, the first fastening component defining at least a portion of said article.

42. (currently amended) A mechanical fastening system for an article, said fastening system comprising:

a first fastening component comprising a ~~forceably-oriented~~ loop material formed by a nonwoven web of fibers, the fibers in the nonwoven web being oriented by application of force to the nonwoven web of fibers in a direction so that more of the fibers are oriented in the direction of force than prior to ~~drawing-of~~ applying a force to the nonwoven web of fibers; and

a second fastening component comprising a hook material, the oriented nonwoven loop material of the first fastening component being adapted for releasable connection with the hook material of the second fastening component.

43. (previously presented) The mechanical fastening system set forth in claim 42 in combination with the article, the first fastening component defining at least a portion of said article.